

The Lounsbury House
Rye, N. Y.

HABS No. NY-4115

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 4
New York State

Historic American Buildings Survey
Wakefield Worcester, District Officer
25 West 44th Street, New York, N. Y.

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THE LOUNSBURY HOUSE
Boston Post Road
Rye, Westchester County, New York

Owner:

John E. Parsons

Date of Erection:

1830 to 1840

Architect:

Original architect unknown.

Library Wing addition by Delano & Aldrich, 1900

Builder:

Edward L. Parsons

Number of Stories:

Two stories, attic and cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - clapboards on stud

Interior walls - stud and plaster

Floor - wood

Roof - copper

Other Existing Records

None

Additional Data:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Record:</u>	<u>Reference:</u>
1690	The last will of Richard Lounsbury, dated January 2, shows that the land on which this house was built was in possession of the family prior to this date. The farm was left to his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Mary.	-
1706	Between 1706-1723 the name of John Lounabury appears in records indicating he probably had possession of this farm or an interest in it.	County Register's Office
1708	The records are confusing but indicate that to the property was in possession of the Purdy	Ditto
1761	and Hart families at different times.	Liber G, p. 127 Liber E, p. 37 ¹ / ₂ Liber F, p. 192
1810	John Purdy and wife sold land to John Hertell.	C.R.O. Liber T, p. 67
1823	Thomas Hertell and his wife sold this farm to Mary Jane DeLancy, widow of Thomas DeLancy.	" Liber 37, p.173
1829	Mary Jane DeLancy sold this farm to Joseph Chadwick.	" Liber 37, p. 176
1831	The central portion of house with kitchen wing (since removed) was built by Edward L. Parsons. He had acquired land from Hannah Chadwick, widow of Joseph Chadwick, and children.	" Liber 42, p.400
1850	John Edward Parsons, acting as "special guardian" for Matilda Parsons, widow, and for the children of Edward L. Parsons, sold house and farm to Wm. R. Talbot. Additions, such as portico and raised roof, may have been added at this time.	C.R.O. Liber 148, pp. 19 and 23 Liber 146, p. 95
1858	Wm. R. Talbot sold the house and farm to James H. Parsons, a member of the original Parsons family who added new service wing in 1891.	C.R.O. Liber 383, p. 44
1893	John E. Parsons bought this house from Margaret B. Parsons, widow of James H. Parsons, who in 1900 employed Delano & Aldrich, architects, to build the new Library wing.	C.R.O. Liber 1302, p.449
1936	John E. Parsona is present owner.	

(over)

Milton Fischer (author)

Approved:

Wakefield Worcester
Wakefield Worcester, District Officer

It may be that the original house was only two stories high and included only the space now occupied by the study, living room, and hall. The ceilings in this part are lower than the rest, though it must be admitted that even 9'0 seems a little high for a modest farm house. The interior trim of this part seems to be definitely earlier than the dining room which is Greek revival. The entablature of the Ionic order is one-quarter the height of the whole order and, of course, particularly in the drawing seems/clumsy. One may suppose that this came about because, first, the owner wished to "modernize" his house in the taste of the time and at the same time wished to be practical and have the added story high enough to accommodate living quarters. It must be pointed out, however, that on approaching this portico and entering the house through it there is a certain feeling of domesticity which is not a characteristic of the Greek Revival. This is probably due entirely to the fact that the scale of the columns was kept small by reason of the story heights of the original house.

The dining room is quite definitely pleasing. It is dignified, yet, friendly. In other words, both in this room and the portico the style is used under a kind of restriction with fortunate results.

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